

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~identifying scanning~~ articles ~~comprising the steps of: labeling the articles~~ each labeled with a label comprising a light polarizing material, the light polarizing material forming a machine readable indicia including a code for automated identification of ~~associated with~~ the article, the light polarizing material being applied over a ~~second reflective material, comprising the steps of:~~

exposing the light polarizing material to a light source;

dividing light reflected from the indicia into a plurality of beams;

filtering each of a plurality of the beams through a polarized filter, each of the filters being offset from each of the other filters by a predetermined angle;

generating an electronic image from each of the filtered beams with a detector;

comparing the electronic images to produce a composite image corresponding to the machine readable indicia; and

electronically analyzing the composite image to decode the indicia.

~~the second material reflecting light through the light polarizing material to create an image from which the machine readable indicia may be reproduced by filtering the reflected light to produce a plurality of images and comparing the images.~~

Claim 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 ~~further comprising utilizing~~ wherein a data base database including a plurality of codes was used to apply different machine readable indicia to different ones of the plurality of articles, the machine readable indicia representing one of the plurality of codes ~~for identifying~~ associated with particular articles.

Claim 3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~a~~ machine readable indicia ~~is~~ are formed on a plurality of labels from a light polarizing material applied over the ~~a~~ reflective material, the reflective material reflecting light through the light polarizing material ~~that is~~ filterable to produce a plurality of images from which the machine readable indicia may be reproduced by comparing the images and applying the labels to articles.

Claims 4-6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 further comprising generating ~~an~~ the electronic image from each of the filtered beams with a ~~detector~~ charge coupled array.

Claim 8. (Canceled).

Claim 9. (Original) The method of claim ~~1~~ 2 wherein the machine readable indicia comprises a bar code.

Claim 10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the light polarizing material and the reflective material are transparent to visible light.

Claims 11-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) A labeling system comprising:

a plurality of labels including a machine readable indicia representing a ~~unique~~ code, each of the labels further comprising a reflective layer underlying the machine readable indicia and a substrate, and wherein the machine readable indicia comprises a light polarizing material;

a labeler for applying the labels to each of a plurality of articles whereby articles are ~~uniquely identified~~ associated with one of the codes; and

a computer including a database ~~representing the plurality of articles, and wherein the unique code for~~ codes to be associated with each of the labeled articles is are stored.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17 further comprising a media applicator for applying a light polarizing material in a machine readable format to the labels substrate.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18 wherein the media applicator is a printer and the light polarizing material is a dichrotic dichroic ink.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) An automated article sorting system, comprising:

- a plurality of polarized ~~lenses~~ filters for filtering polarized light reflected from a label including machine readable indicia comprising a polarized material on ~~the~~ a surface of an article conveyed past the ~~lenses~~ filters;
- a detector associated with ~~at least more than one~~ each of the ~~lenses~~ filters for detecting reflected light transmitted through one of the polarized ~~lenses~~ filters and generating a signal in response thereto;
- a computer receiving signals from the detectors, the computer comparing the signals from the detectors and detecting a pattern corresponding to the indicia, the computer generating a sorting signal corresponding to the indicia; and
- a sorter, the sorter sorting the articles based upon the sorting signal received from the computer.

Claim 21. (Original) The sorting system of claim 20 wherein each detector is a charged coupled array.

Claim 22. (Original) The sorting system of claim 20 wherein each charged coupled array generates a digitalized electronic image from reflected light passing through one of the filters.

Claim 23. (Original) The sorting system of claim 22 wherein the computer compares at least one of the digitalized images to at least one other different digitalized image to reproduce the machine readable indicia.

Claim 24. (Original) The sorting system of claim 23 where the computer compares the digitalized images by subtracting pixels generated by the charged coupled arrays.

Claim 25. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of comparing the images comprises subtracting a first digitalized image from a second digitalized image to obtain a difference representing the machine readable indicia.

Claim 26. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the machine readable indicia comprise postal address information and the articles comprise mail pieces.

Claim 27. (New) the method of claim 1 wherein the label is at least partially transparent, and the reflective material comprises a surface of a labeled article.

Claim 28. (New) A labeled mail piece, comprising:
a mail piece having a cover with a decorative surface;
a label at least partially transparent to visible light, which label is applied to the cover over the decorative surface, the label including a machine readable indicia comprising a light polarizing material; and
a reflecting layer that reflects light through the machine readable indicia.

Claim 29. (New) The labeled mail piece of claim 28, wherein the label comprises a substrate having the machine readable indicia printed thereon, which substrate is at least partially transparent to visible light.

Claim 30. (New) The mail piece of claim 28 wherein the mail piece is a magazine.

Claim 31. (New) The mail piece of claim 28 wherein the mail piece is a catalog.

Claim 32. (New) The mail piece of claim 29 wherein the machine readable indicia comprises a light polarizing material, and the substrate comprises a non-polarizing material.

Claim 33. (New) The mail piece of claim 29 wherein the substrate comprises a light polarizing material, and the machine readable indicia comprises areas of a non-light polarizing material.